

Code & Horses

Code is an outdated way to send messages. Just as horses are outdated ways of transportation. You don't have to be a mechanic to drive a car. Every state does have a test you have to pass to prove you are proficient in the operation of a motor vehicle before they will issue you a license to operate one. It is not a prerequisite that you have to be able to ride a horse before you can drive a car. The same thinking should be applied to getting a general class ham ticket. There is always going to be people who like to ride horses, and there will be people who like code.

I have done slow scan TV, fast scan TV, packet, APRS, and various other modes using ham radio. None of these were required to obtain a license. Should one mode be singled out of ham radio and declared you have to have this? Code has nothing to do with the proper operation of a HF radio station.

Requiring code for a general class license is hurting ham radio tremendously. Manufacturers of ham radios are losing huge amounts of income by not selling HF radios to this group. If I were a manufacturer of ham radios, I would be in Washington D.C. lobbying every Congressman and Senator on Capital Hill.

I received my ticket in 1995 and passed the general written part in November 02. In September 03 I will be taking the code test. Will I use the code? Probably, but when I do I am sure I will use something like the MFJ CW Reader/Keyer to send and receive it.

The code is creating loss of interest to many hams. The dropping of code brought in many new hams into the technician ranks. Dropping the code for a general class license will keep many of these hams interested and buying new equipment.

Do what is best for all involved with Ham Radio and drop the code as a requirement.